

Day at the beach



Photos by **Koreena Haynes** / USFS

Kulshan Creek Neighborhood Program students Marcela Partida, 11, and Ruth Castro, 12 take a break June 23 after hiking to Rosario Head to explore the tide pools at Rosario Beach.

Youths from MV learn about seaside habitats

Now that summer's almost over (already!), The Argus looks back to "the first official day of summer vacation," when some 40 youths from the Kulshan Creek neighborhood in Mount Vernon explored Deception Pass State Park with naturalists.

The students heard a presentation on natural and human history by park volunteer and Ranger Rick Columbo. They also explored tide pools, the beach and hiked along the bluffs to Bowman Beach on the June 23 trip.

Agencies participating in the neighborhood program are the Mount Ver-

non Police Department, North Cascades Institute and the U.S. Forest Service.

The goals of the program are to foster connections with nature among "underserved," mostly Hispanic youth in the Kulshan Creek neighborhood. The program also is intended to provide role models for staying in school and expose the youths to careers in natural resources and environmental education.

More information about the program is at the North Cascades Institute website at www.ncascades.org/programs/youth/kulshan_creek.

— **Argus staff**



Kulshan Creek Neighborhood Program group leader Danny Chavez, left, and program students explore the tide pools June 23 at Rosario Beach. Students shown are Alondra Pantoja-Gutierrez, 11; Veronica Cruz, 9; Robby Haynes, 3; Vanessa Pantoja-Ortega, 12; and Francisco Valencia, 13.